



## **LaCie FireWire 800 Drives and Windows XP SP2**

**August 10, 2004**

Recently, Microsoft released the long awaited Windows XP SP2 which provides many bug fixes, enhancements and security measures. This is an update that Microsoft recommends, and most people will want to install this on the XP machine. The SP2 update is for Windows XP Home, Professional, Media Center Edition, and Tablet PC.

There are many improvements to the FireWire drivers; this interface is also called IEEE-1394 and iLink.

If you are using a LaCie FireWire product with Windows XP, you should review the following information to assure that your drive still works properly.

LaCie has several different types of FireWire products that incorporate different interface configurations:

- FireWire 400
- FireWire 400 and USB 1.1 (also known as U&I)
- FireWire 400 and USB 2 (also known as U&I)
- FireWire 800 and USB 2 (also known as U&I)
- FireWire 800/400 and USB 2 (also known as Triple Interface)
- FireWire 800/400

LaCie has produced the following products with FireWire 800 interfaces:

- d2 FW800 200 and 250 GB (Gigabyte)
- d2 Triple Interface 160, 200, and 250 GB
- d2 Hard Drive Extreme 120, 160, 200, and 250GB
- Big Disk 320, 400, and 500 GB
- Big Disk 320, 400, and 500 GB
- Big Disk Extreme 320, 400, and 500 GB
- Bigger Disk 1.0 TB (Terabyte)
- Bigger Disk Extreme 1.0 and 1.6 TB

The illustrations below will help you to identify what type of drive and FireWire connection you have. FW800 drives and computers will have connector type "C"; it is a large, 9-pin connector. Do not confuse it with the smaller FW400 4-pin or 6-pin connectors as shown in "A" or "B".



d2



d2 Big Disk



d2 Bigger Disk

**FW400****A****FW400****B****FW800****C**

Your LaCie FireWire 800 drive must be updated in order to work correctly with Windows XP SP2. LaCie has prepared a firmware update tool for Windows XP which will update your drive. The update can be done from a PC or Macintosh computer. The updater is only necessary if you plan to use your drive with computers running Windows XP SP2. Once the drive is updated, it will operate with Windows XP whether SP2 is installed or not; the drive will also work with the Macintosh OS X operating system.

Your Windows XP computer likely has a FW800 PCI card for desktops, a PC Card for laptops, or a built-in FireWire port on the motherboard. This update is compatible with LaCie provided FW800 PCI and PC cards.

If you have a FW800 card provided by another vendor, or have ports built into your motherboard, you may have unique drivers for FireWire 800 compatibility. Please contact the vendor of your FireWire 800 interface card or motherboard for appropriate action.

The LaCie firmware updates are for LaCie drives only. Even though LaCie uses Oxford 922 and 912 FW800 bridge chips, these firmware updates only are compatible with LaCie drives. Do not try to use these updaters with other manufacturers' drives. LaCie cannot be responsible for any damage if you attempt to use these updates with non-LaCie drives.

## LaCie Update Tool

Download the Windows XP updater installer from <http://www.lacie.com/support/drivers>; be sure you select the Hard Drive product family:

"LaCie Update Tool for Windows (August 11, 2004)"  
DeviceUpdater\_Install\_1.0.4.zip

**Note well:** LaCie has taken steps to assure that the update program does not alter the data on your drives during the update process. In the unlikely event that something does go wrong, be sure that you have a backup copy of any critical files and folders in a safe place before running the updater on your drive.

- unmount and disconnect all FireWire drives from the computer
- the updater installer can be used on a PC running Windows XP (Home or Professional), 2000, 98SE, or Me; just be sure it has at least one working FireWire port; be sure that you only have one FireWire controller in your computer for the easiest update
- unzip the downloaded file and save the installer; the file is named

“DeviceUpdater\_Install.EXE”

- double-click on the icon or filename of the installer to install the update program on your computer. Follow the instructions in the dialog window; after installing the updater, you will need to restart your computer
- after restarting, navigate to the *Programs > LaCieTools* program group and select *Device Updater > LaCie Device Updater* program to run the updater
- select the d2 Drive and then connect the LaCie external drive (only one at a time) to either a FW400 port or a FW800 port; be sure that you only have one FireWire controller in your computer for the easiest update
- once device is detected, it will automatically be updated as necessary
- when complete disconnect the drive, and exit the update program

Your drive firmware has now been updated and your drive is ready to use.

## Q & A

Q: Why do I need to update my FireWire 800 drive to use with Windows XP SP2?

A: Microsoft has made changes and improvements to the FireWire drivers built into Windows XP. This is for improved compatibility, stability, and data integrity. The firmware update is necessary for best performance and proper operation.

If the firmware is not updated, the driver performance will be severely reduced. The update restores proper interface speed and performance.

Q: I purchased a LaCie FW800 PCI Card. Are there any drivers I should install to make this card compatible with Windows XP SP2?

Q: I purchased a LaCie FW800 PC Card for my laptop. Are there any drivers I should install?

A: No separate driver is required

If you are using a non-LaCie PCI card or PC Card to provide FW800 performance, please contact the vendor of the FW800 card for new driver information.

Q: What happens if I do not update the firmware?

A: Your drive performance will be considerably slower, and probably not acceptable for most applications.

Q: If I perform the update for use with Windows XP SP2, is the drive still usable with Macintosh OS X? With other versions of Windows?

A: Yes.

Q: If I do not have a FW800 interface on my computer, and I connect my FW800 drive to an available FW400 port, do I still need to perform the update?

A: Yes, the firmware update is still recommended for most reliable performance.

Q: When I connect the drive, the updater does not do anything, other than animate the drive icon

A: If drive is not detected, try connecting to another FireWire port on your computer until it gets detected.

Q: How do I check to see if the drive requires the update?

A: The updater will only apply the update if necessary; if the drive is already updated, it will simply confirm that Update succeeded, or that drive is already up-to-date.

Q: I still have a question that is not answered, who can I contact?

A: Send your question to [firewire@lacie.com](mailto:firewire@lacie.com)